



# **Texas Binational Tuberculosis Program**

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TB Intensive  
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# **Audilis Sánchez, MPH, MHSA** has the following disclosures to make:

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- No conflict of interests
- No relevant financial relationships with any commercial companies pertaining to this educational activity



# Texas Binational Tuberculosis Program

Texas Department of State Health Services  
Tuberculosis and Hansen's Disease Unit

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# Texas Border Overview



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# U.S. - México Border

- The U.S.-México border is 1,954 miles
- The Texas border is more than half of the U.S. – México border, stretching 1,254 miles from the Gulf of México to El Paso
- Joined by 28 international bridges and border crossings
- 4 Mexican states border Texas:
  - Chihuahua
  - Coahuila
  - Nuevo León
  - Tamaulipas
- 45 million people cross legally into Texas from México

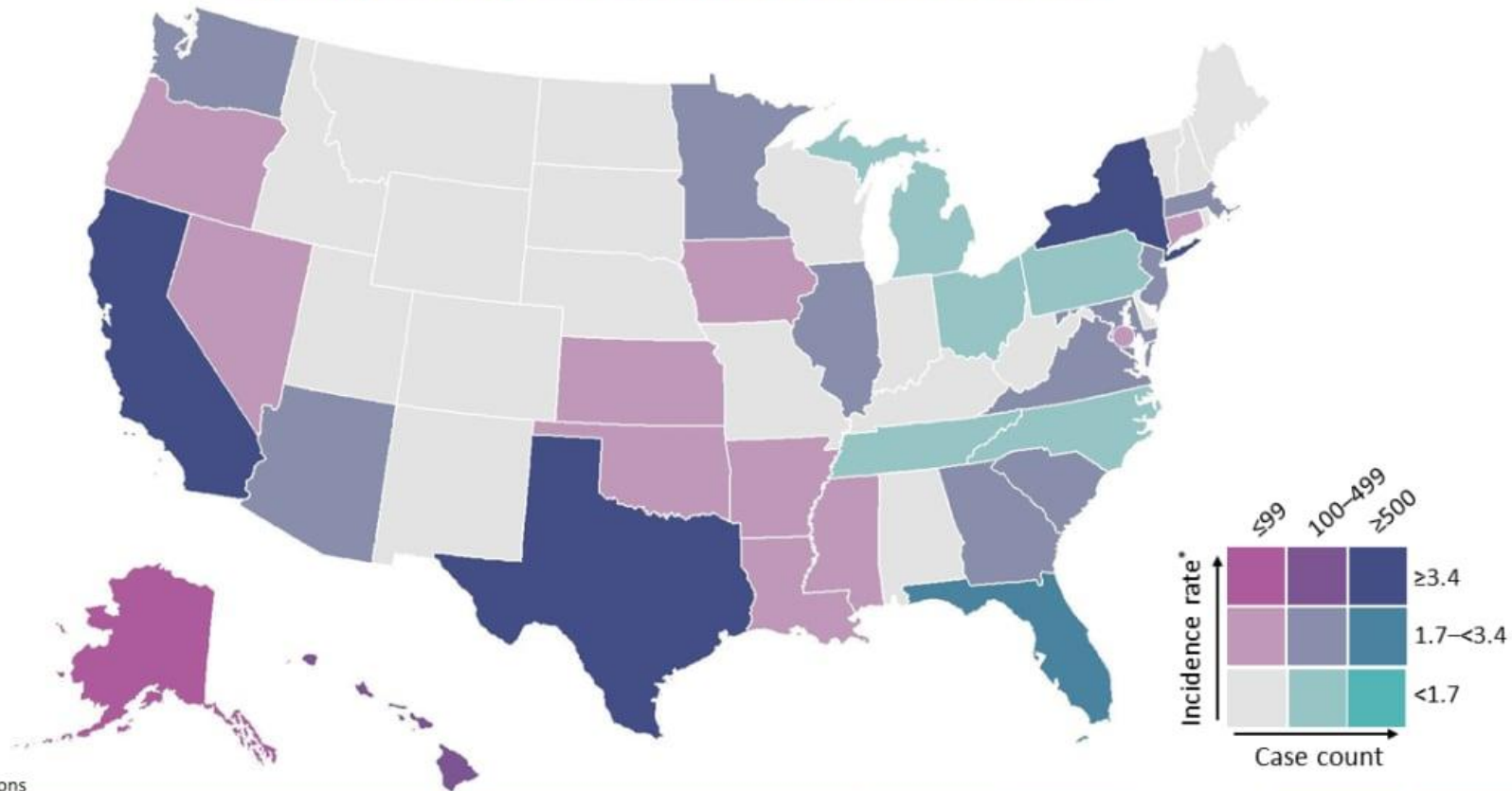


# Demographics

Factor	Texas Border	Texas Non-border
Population size	2.8 million	27.7 million
Population under 18 years of age	29%	25%
Hispanic ethnicity	89%	35%
Below poverty level	24%	13%
Uninsured	27%	12%
Do not speak English very well	30%	12%
At least a high school diploma	73%	86%
Foreign-Born	24%	16%

# Tuberculosis Cases

TB Cases and Incidence Rates\*  
by Reporting Area, United States, 2022



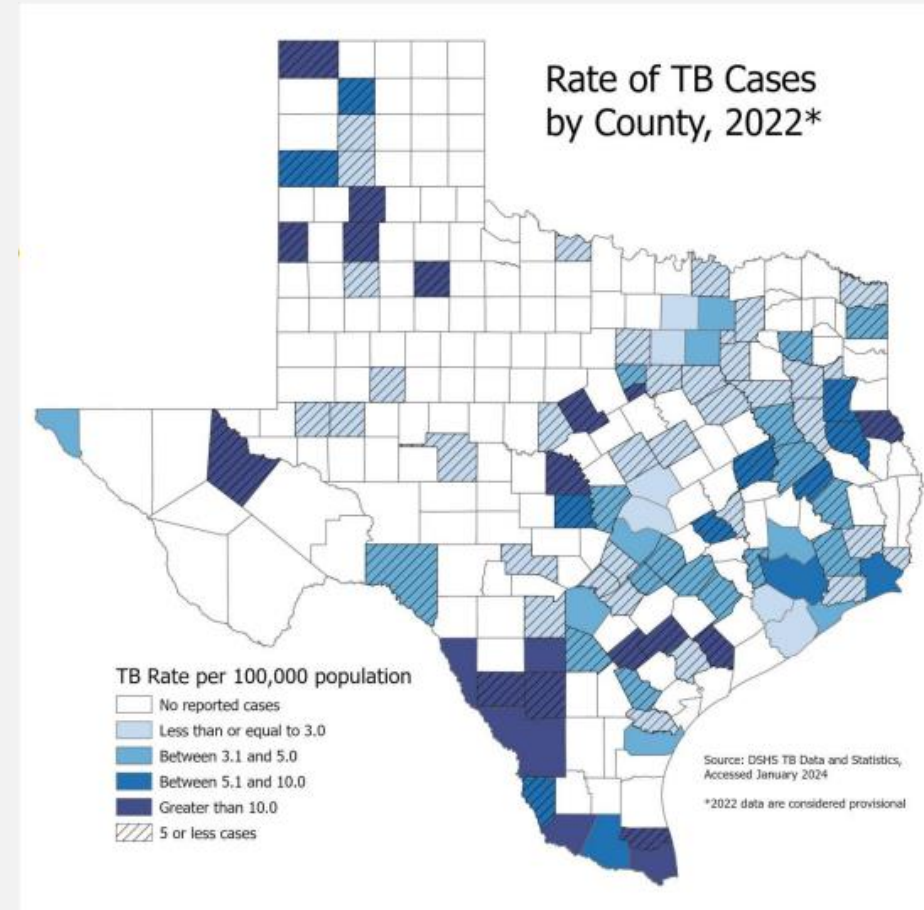
# Tuberculosis by Metropolitan Area

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Cases		Incidence rates		Population Estimates 2021
	2020	2021	2020	2021	
Austin-Round Rock-Georgetown, TX	55	62	2.4	2.6	2,352,426
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	213	229	2.8	3	7,759,615
<b>El Paso, TX</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>871,234</b>
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX	296	301	4.1	4.2	7,206,841
<b>McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>880,356</b>
San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX	58	86	2.3	3.3	2,601,788
<b>Total US – 113 Areas</b>	<b>5817</b>	<b>6386</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>229,682,350</b>



# Border vs. Non-Border

- In 2022, border counties represented 21.2% of TB cases in Texas, although only 9.5% of the Texas population live in a border county



# Texas Binational Tuberculosis (BNTB) Program Overview

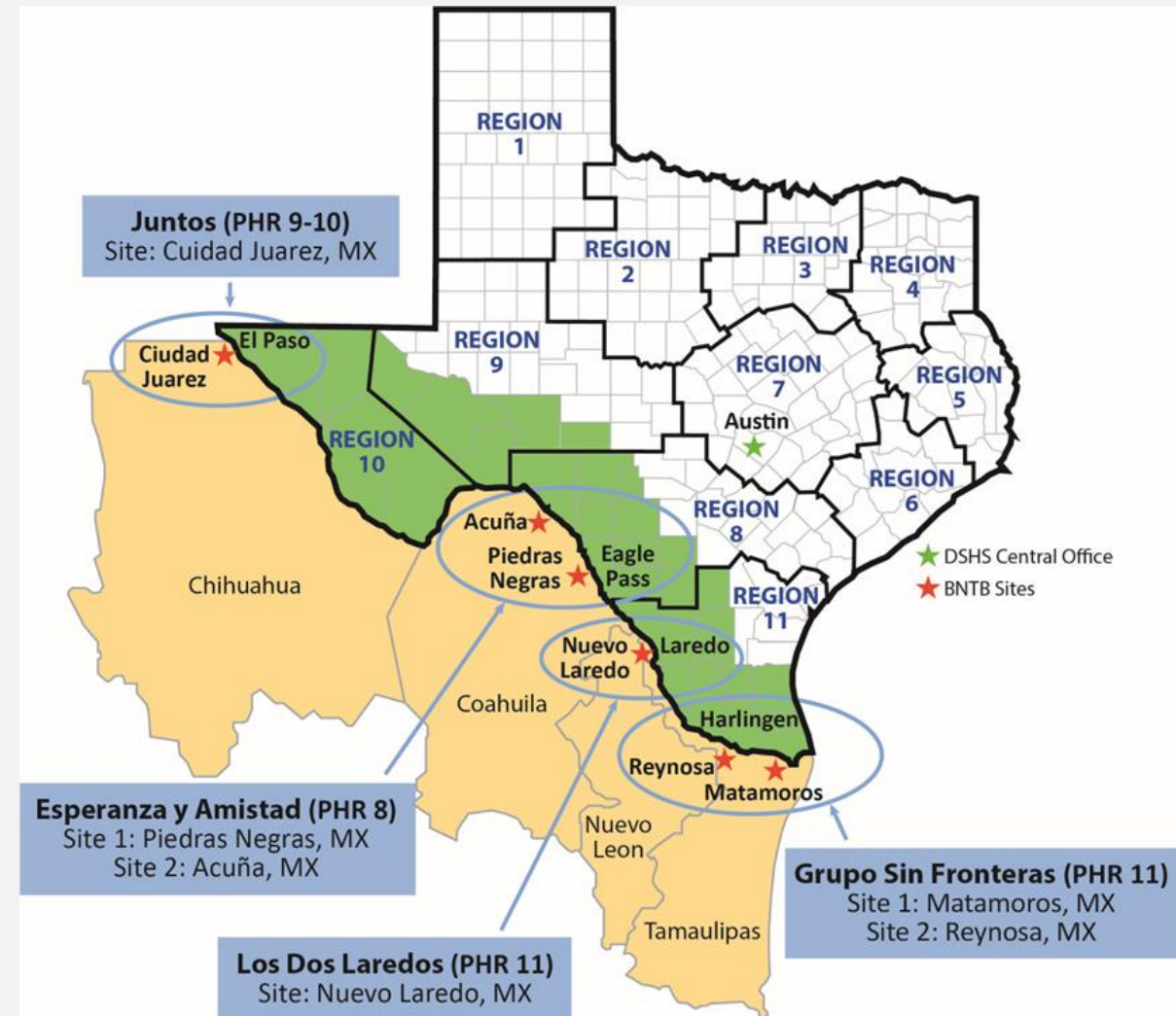


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# BNTB Program

- Texas and México acknowledge that cities along the US-México border have a higher incidence of TB
- To reduce transmission along the Texas-Mexico border a formal partnership was established in 1991
- Four binational program sites in Texas oversee program activities of six clinics in México providing direct patient care
- Close collaboration: TB Unit, Regional/ Local Health Departments, FEMAP, Heartland Center, and México's public health



# BNTB Program Staffing

## **Staff in Texas**

- Medical Directors
- Program Managers
- Coordinators
- Administrative Assistants

## **Contracted Staff in México**

- Fiduciary Agency
- Medical Coordinator & Auditor
- Physicians
- Nurses

# Eligibility for Services



Lives in México with relatives in the U.S.

Has dual residency in the U.S. and México

Has contacts on both sides of the border, in the U.S. and México

Started treatment in the U.S. but returned to live in México

Is referred from the U.S. for treatment to follow-up in México

# Overview of Services and Core Activities



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# BNTB Services



Out-Patient Care - México



Patient Education - México



Case Management - México



Directly Observed and Video Observed Therapy - México



Home Visits - México



Contact Investigation – México



Pharmaceutical Support – Texas and México



Laboratory Support – Texas



Expert Consultation Services - Texas



# TB Unit Support Services

## Administrative

Oversee the performance of all Binational TB Programs

Program evaluation through Annual Progress Reports and Contract Monitoring Events

Coordination and support for CDC permits, supplies, specimen transportation, etc.

## Nursing

Consultation services for TB disease and their contacts

Monitor nurse case management activities

Coordination of second-line TB medications

Develop and annual revision of the BNTB manual

Training and Education



# Referrals for Services in México

## Interjurisdictional (IJN) referrals:



When a patient moves from a Texas Jurisdiction to a BNTB program in México submit the IJN form to DSHS TB Unit's Texas IJN Coordinator

- <https://www.tbcontrollers.org/resources/interjurisdictional-transfers/>

## Cure TB referrals:



When a patient moves to an area outside the BNTB program, contact CDC Cure TB

- <https://www.cdc.gov/usMéxicohealth/curetb.html>

# Contacts

Binational TB Program Sites	Texas Offices
<b>Juntos</b> Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua México	<b>DSHS PHR 9/10</b> Office: 915-834-7792 Fax: 915-834-7722 Email: <a href="mailto:HSR9-10.CDReporting@DSHS.Texas.gov">HSR9-10.CDReporting@DSHS.Texas.gov</a>
<b>Esperanza y Amistad</b> Piedras Negras & Acuña, Coahuila México	<b>DSHS PHR 8</b> Office: 830-758-4274 Fax: 512-206-3949 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Tuberculosis.Region8@DSHS.Texas.gov">Tuberculosis.Region8@DSHS.Texas.gov</a>
<b>Grupo Sin Fronteras</b> Reynosa & Matamoros, Tamaulipas México	<b>DSHS PHR 11</b> Office: 956-444-3215 Fax: 956-444-3236
<b>Los Dos Laredos</b> Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas México	<b>City of Laredo Health Department</b> Office: 956-727-6974; 956-795-4911 Fax: 956-724-5789

[TB.Feedback@DSHS.Texas.gov](mailto:TB.Feedback@DSHS.Texas.gov)

# In Conclusion



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# Successes



Resources, Binational TB Program Manual & Case Management Forms



Access to Laboratory Services



Access to Tuberculosis Medications



Onsite Physician Support at Each Clinic in México



Texas-México Partnerships

# Challenges



Funding Limitations



Navigating Treatment Practices



Geographic Barriers

# Final Thoughts

The Binational TB Program is culturally competent

Common goal of continued collaboration with México's public health to prevent and reduce TB transmission along the Texas-México border

**Thank You!**  
**¡Gracias!**



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